AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A urethral sling introducer for inserting only through a pair of vaginal incisions equal lengths of polypropylene sling tape in a sub-urethral fashion to control female incontinence wherein, the sling introducer comprises

an instrument unit including an elongated curved hollow tubular member provided with a conical tip wherein, the upper end of the hollow tubular member is provided with a contoured capture aperture and is further dimensioned to slidably receive a capture piston, the capture aperture being disposed to receive an end of the sling tape;

a handle unit including a hollow handle member adapted to receive a supply of saline fluid wherein, the hollow handle member is in open communication with said hollow tubular member; and

means for moving said capture piston into and out of an obstructing relationship relative to said contoured capture aperture.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 1; wherein, said capture piston is hollow.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 2; wherein, the capture piston has an upper end that is chamfered to allow saline fluid to pass through said capture aperture.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 1; wherein, said conical tip is provided with at least one fluid port.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 3; wherein, said conical tip is provided with at least one fluid port.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 5; wherein, said at least one fluid port is in open fluid communication with the hollow capture piston member.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 1; wherein, said means for moving said capture piston relative to the capture aperture comprises at least in part

a locking piston slidably disposed within the hollow handle member; and

an elongated spring element having opposite ends connected to said capture piston and said locking piston.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 5; wherein, said means for moving said capture piston relative tot he capture aperture comprises at least in part

a locking piston slidably disposed within the hollow handle member; and

an elongated spring element having opposite ends connected to said capture piston and said locking piston.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 1; wherein, said capture aperture has an enlarged upper portion and an elongated narrow lower portion.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 5; wherein, said capture aperture has an enlarged upper portion and an elongated narrow lower portion.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 7; wherein, said capture aperture has an enlarged upper portion and an elongated narrow lower portion.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 11; wherein, said means for moving the capture piston relative to the capture aperture further comprises

a cap element movably disposed on the lower end of the handle member wherein, the cap element is disposed in a surrounding relationship relative to said locking piston.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The sling introducer as in claim 12; wherein, said cap element is adapted to movably engage a portion of the locking piston.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method of installing a sub-urethral sling tape only through a pair of vaginal incisions without piercing the abdominal wall including the steps of

(a) captively engaging one end of the sling tape in the upper end of an elongated hollow tubular member having a conical tip and disposed on a hollow handle member

connected to a saline solution supply

(b) inserting said conical tip through one of the vaginal incisions and threading the conical tip between the bladder and symphysis while introducing saline solution through the hollow tubular member

(c) detecting the approach of the conical tip proximate to the abdominal wall

(d) disengaging the captive end of the sling tape from the hollow tubular member; and

(e) retracting the hollow tubular member from the first vaginal incision.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14; further comprising the steps of:

(f) repeating steps (a) through (e) with respect to the second vaginal incision.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 14; further including the intermediate steps of:

(g) disposing the sling tape in a transparent sheath provided with different colored numerical indicia

(h) retracting the sheath slight prior to captively engaging the unsheathed portion of the sling tape as in step (a)

(I) snugging the sheath against the captive end of the tape.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 16; including the further steps of

(j) retracting the transparent tape after step (c) and prior to step (d) until the upper end of the sheath passes out of the vaginal incision on the left side

(k) noting the numerical value adjacent the free end of the sling tape on the lower portion of the colored indicia on the sheath

(l) severing the sheath and the sling tape at the corresponding numerical value on the differently colored upper portion of the sheath; and,

(m) removing the remaining portion of the sheath from the uncut portion of the sling tape.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 17; further comprising the steps of:

(f) repeating steps (a) through (e) with respect to the insertion through the incision on the right side of the urethra.

Claim 19. (New) A urethral sling introducer for inserting only through a pair of vaginal incisions equal lengths of polypropylene sling tape in a sub-urethral fashion to control female incontinence wherein, the sling introducer comprises

an instrument unit including an elongated curved hollow tubular member provided with a conical tip wherein, the upper end of the hollow tubular member is provided with a contoured capture aperture and is further dimensioned to slidably receive a capture piston

a handle unit including a hollow handle member adapted to receive a supply of saline fluid wherein, the hollow handle member is in open communication with said hollow tubular member; and,

means for moving said capture piston into and out of an obstructing relationship relative to said contoured capture aperture;

wherein said means for moving said capture piston relative to the capture aperture comprises at least in part

a locking piston slidably disposed within the hollow handle member; and

an elongated spring element having opposite ends connected to said capture piston and said locking piston.

Claim 20. (New) A urethral sling introducer for inserting only through a pair of vaginal incisions equal lengths of polypropylene sling tape in a sub-urethral fashion to control female incontinence wherein, the sling introducer comprises

an instrument unit including an elongated curved hollow tubular member provided with a conical tip wherein, the upper end of the hollow tubular member is provided with a contoured capture aperture and is further dimensioned to slidably receive a capture piston, wherein the capture aperture has an enlarged upper portion and an elongated narrow lower portion;

a handle unit including a hollow handle member adapted to receive a supply of saline fluid wherein, the hollow handle member is in open communication with said hollow

tubular member; and

means for moving said capture piston into and out of an obstructing relationship relative to said contoured capture aperture.